



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (office)
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

KEEPMEINMIND RALLIES TO WIN GRADE II, \$200,000 KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020) – **Keepmeinmind**, who was made the 2-1 favorite after a third-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (Grade I) 22 days ago, rallied down the middle of the stretch from last to run down **Smiley Sobotka** and win Saturday's 94th running of the \$200,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) at Churchill Downs by three-quarters of lengths.

Keepmeinmind, owned by **Kevin Moody's Cypress Creek LLC** and **Arnold Bennewith**, clocked 1 1/16 miles over a fast track in 1:44.52, earned \$119,040 and collected 10 points as part of the "Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve" series, which offered points on a scale of 10-4-2-1 to the Top 4 finishers as a "Prep Season" race.

It also was the first win of Keepmeinmind's brief career.

David Cohen rode the winner for trainer **Robertino Diodoro**.

"He showed his talent today," said Diodoro, who collected his first graded stakes win in the U.S. since **Inside Straight** won the 2017 Oaklawn Handicap (GII). "He's had some tough trips previously and even though he was a maiden, we knew he'd fit with this field. I think he'll be a horse that'll run all day."

Smiley Sobotka, the less-accomplished half of the **Albaugh Family Stables**-owned and **Dale Romans**-trained entry with Iroquois (GIII) winner **Sittin On Go**, broke fastest of all and led the field of nine 2-year-olds into the first turn and down the backstretch through quarter-mile fractions of :24.11 and :48.24 with longshot **Oncoming Train** and **King Fury** in close pursuit. Keepmeinmind was last of all about eight lengths behind.

King Fury poked his head in front leaving the far turn but Smiley Sobotka cut the corner smartly and regained the lead in upper stretch. All the while, a patient Cohen had plenty of horse beneath him with a quarter-mile to run and he swung Keepmeinmind out from last for his late run. As Smiley Sobotka plugged away on the lead, Keepmeinmind closed with a rush while seven-wide and caught the eventual runner-up with about 50 yards to the finish.

"He's had a lot of rough trips from the start of his career," said Cohen, who won his first graded stakes race at Churchill Downs. "The slow pace today actually worked out for him; he didn't seem to mind it at all. We saved ground going into the first turn and got into a nice rhythm. I let him gather himself up around the turn and didn't want to swing too wide."

Keepmeinmind paid \$6, \$3.20 and \$2.60. Smiley Sobotka, under **Julien Leparoux**, paid \$4 and \$3. **Arabian Prince** was another 1 3/4 lengths back in third and returned \$4.40 to show with **Tyler Gaffalione** aboard.

It was another two lengths back to **Swill** in fourth, who was followed by King Fury, Sittin On Go, Oncoming Train, **Ultimate Badger** and **Inspector Frost**.

Overall, Keepmeinmind has a record of 1-2-1 in four starts and earnings of \$394,320. Three weeks ago at Keeneland, he rallied to run third two lengths back of winner **Essential Quality** and runner-up **Hot Rod Charlie**, in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI). Before that, he finished second to Essential Quality in the \$400,000 Breeders' Futurity (GI).

Overall, Keepmeinmind has 18 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby leaderboard that will determine the preference list for the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby (GI) on May 1.

After a brief break at **WinStar Farm** in Versailles, Ky., Keepmeinmind will be shipped to Oaklawn Park in Arkansas for the winter to begin preparations for his 3-year-old campaign.

"He's just growing into himself," Cohen said. "I told Robertino this would be our Derby horse. Mentally he hasn't grown up yet in his previous starts. He's starting to put it all together."

Keepmeinmind, a son of Laoban out of the Victory Gallop mare Inclination, was bred in Kentucky by **Southern Equine Stables LLC**.

The Kentucky Jockey Club is named in honor of the holding company that operated Churchill Downs at the time of the race's inaugural running in 1920. In recent years, the Kentucky Jockey Club produced Kentucky Derby winners in **WinStar Farm's Super Saver**, who won both races for trainer **Todd Pletcher** in 2009 and '10, and **Mike Pegram's Real Quiet**, the runner-up in the 1997 Kentucky Jockey Club who returned to win the Derby for trainer **Bob Baffert** the following spring.

Racing at Churchill Downs continues Sunday at 1 p.m. ET with an 11-race card for closing day of the Fall Meet. There will be a mandatory payout in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot (Races 6-11), which features a carryover of \$52,666.

TRAVEL COLUMN OVERCOMES EVENTFUL TRIP TO WIN GRADE II GOLDEN ROD

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020) – Travel Column overcame a slow break and being squeezed at the start to run down **Clairiere** in the final yards and win Saturday's 77th running of the \$200,000 Golden Rod (Grade II) at Churchill Downs by one length. Stablemate **Coach** was another 2 ½ lengths back in third and 3-5 favorite **Simply Ravishing** was another half-length back in fourth.

Travel Column, who ran 1 1/16 miles over a fast track in 1:43.98 as the 9-2 second betting choice in the field of nine, collected the \$119,040 first prize and 10 points as part of the "Road to the Kentucky Oaks" series, which offers points on a scale of 10-4-2-1 to the Top 4 finishers as a "Prep Season" race.

The final time was only the seventh sub-1:44 clocking in the race's history, which has been contested at the distance since 1980. Also, it was :00.54 faster than Keepmeinmind's win in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII).

Florent Geroux rode the winner for trainer **Brad Cox** and owner **Larry Best's OXO Equine LLC**.

Farsighted broke fastest of all and rattled off early quarter-mile splits of :23.77 and :48.21 with Travel Column last down the backstretch after she was crowded between horses at the start from post position 4. As Simply Ravishing took the lead around the turn, Travel Column weaved her way into contention only to be bottled up down on the inside behind the leading pack, which included Simply Ravishing, a fading Farsighted on the rail, a three-wide Coach and a four-wide Clairiere.

Inside the final three-sixteenths of a mile, Geroux shifted Travel Column to the far outside around the threesome. Clairiere had put away the eventual third and fourth place finishers with a furlong to go but a determined Travel Column was finally in the clear and displayed a powerful late kick to get up for the seemingly improbable win.

"We broke a step slow and I tried to get her to relax as much as I could while saving as much ground as possible," Geroux said. "I got sort of a pocket trip around the far turn and when Simply Ravishing was flattening out, I just decided to go around everyone. She had a ton of energy left and was able to get up to win."

Prior to the Golden Rod, Travel Column missed the break in the Grade I Alcibiades at Keeneland on Oct. 2 and finished third behind Simply Ravishing and **Crazy Beautiful**.

"(Travel Column) overcame a lot of adversity today," Cox said. "This was the game plan all along to run in this race and give her the time she needs after the Alcibiades. She was very impressive breaking that slow and being stopped several times. Mentally that showed her maturity but I still think she is learning. I thought Coach ran a really good race to get third as well."

Behind fourth-place finisher Simply Ravishing, who entered the Golden Rod after a fourth-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) 22 days ago, it was **Princess Theorem**, **Alexandria**, **Lady Lilly**, **Lady Traveler** and Farsighted. **No Mo' Spending** was scratched.

"No real excuses," said Simply Ravishing's jockey **Robby Albarado**.

Travel Column improved her record to 3-2-0-0—\$209,184 and paid \$11.80, \$6.20 and \$4. Clairiere, ridden by **Ricardo Santana Jr.**, paid \$5.60 and \$3.40. Coach, under **Joe Talamo**, returned \$5.40 to show.

"She ran a really good race and was second best," Santana Jr. said of Clairiere.

Travel Column, a daughter of Frosted out of the Victory Gallop mare Swingit, was bred in Kentucky by **Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.** and **Denali Stud**.

KENTUCKY JOCKEY CLUB QUOTES

David Cohen, jockey of KEEPMEINMIND (winner): "He's had a lot of rough trips from the start of his career. The slow pace today actually worked out for him; he didn't seem to mind it at all. We saved ground going into the first turn and got into a nice rhythm. I let him gather himself up around the turn and didn't want to swing too wide. He's just growing into himself. I told Robertino this would be our Derby horse. Mentally he hasn't grown up yet in his previous starts. He's starting to put it all together."

Robertino Diodoro, trainer of KEEPMEINMIND (winner): "He showed his talent today. He's had some tough trips previously and even though he was a maiden, we knew he'd fit with this field. I think he'll be a horse that'll run all day."

Julien Leparoux, jockey of SMILEY SOBOTKA (runner-up): "We set a really nice pace on the lead and he fought hard through the stretch. I thought he ran a really good effort."

Dallas Stewart, trainer of ARABIAN PRINCE (third): "I thought he ran a really good race but probably needs more ground than today. That's a promising sign for his 3-year-old year."

GOLDEN ROD QUOTES

Florent Geroux, jockey of TRAVEL COLUMN (winner): “We broke a step slow and I tried to get her to relax as much as I could while saving as much ground as possible. I got sort of a pocket trip around the far turn and when Simply Ravishing was flattening out, I just decided to go around everyone. She had a ton of energy left and was able to get up to win.”

Brad Cox, trainer of TRAVEL COLUMN (winner) and COACH (third): “(Travel Column) overcame a lot of adversity today. This was the game plan all along to run in this race and give her the time she needs after the Alcibiades (GI). She was very impressive breaking that slow and being stopped several times. Mentally that showed her maturity but I still think she is learning. I thought Coach ran a really good race to get third as well.”

Ricardo Santana Jr., jockey of CLAIRIERE (runner-up): “She ran a really good race and was second best.”

Robby Albarado, jockey of SIMPLY RAVISHING (fourth): “No real excuses.”

-END-